



NORTH CAROLINA'S HEALTH CHECK PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Background

The Health Check Program was developed in 1993 as a statewide initiative to improve Medicaid-enrolled children's access to preventive health services. Health Check participants are eligible to receive comprehensive well child check ups, immunizations, and vision, hearing, and dental screening services on a regular basis throughout childhood. Medicaid covers any medically necessary diagnostic or treatment services needed to ameliorate or treat conditions identified through screening. Health Check replaced and enhanced the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program.

The Health Check Program is administered as a cooperative venture between DMA and the DPH, Women's and Children's Health Section. The ongoing development of Health Check is planned in collaboration with professional medical societies, Smart Start, and other statewide initiatives in North Carolina.

A Health Check Screening is the only well child visit reimbursable by Medicaid. Recipients are encouraged to receive comprehensive health checkups and immunizations on a regular schedule. A complete Health Check screening consists of the following age appropriate components:

- ◆ Comprehensive unclothed physical exam.
- ◆ Comprehensive health history.
- ◆ Nutritional assessment.
- ◆ Anticipatory guidance/health education.
- ◆ Measurements, blood pressure, and vital signs.
- ◆ Developmental screening, including mental, emotional and behavioral.
- ◆ Immunizations.
- ◆ Vision and hearing screenings.
- ◆ Laboratory procedures.

All components must be documented in the patient's medical record.

HCCs

A network of HCCs strengthens the Health Check Program. Located in over 75 counties, HCCs assist families in obtaining medical benefits and other community services and support needed by their children. HCCs reach out to communities to

educate families, consumers, and health care providers about Health Check and Health Choice and to help enroll eligible children. HCCs network with other child-focused agencies and organizations within their communities to ensure coordination of care and so appropriate referrals can be made. Most importantly, HCCs use a computer database to follow Medicaid enrolled children in their county to make sure that they are receiving well-child check-ups and recommended follow-up care.

HCCs are located in local health departments and in community and rural health centers. They work closely with departments of social services, MCRs, Smart Start, Immunization Projects, WIC, PCP, and other programs and projects.

Outreach/Education Campaign

Health Check is promoted with Health Choice, the child health insurance program in North Carolina. Health Check outreach activities promote the importance of regular preventive care and educate parents as to when, how, and where to obtain services. This is accomplished through:

- ◆ Personal contact with the parents of Medicaid eligible children by HCCs.
- ◆ The North Carolina Family Health Resource Line, toll-free hotline families can call to receive an application, for information about Health Check or Health Choice, and for help understanding or translating written information they receive from the program.
- ◆ Public Service Announcements on TV and Radio.
- ◆ Newspaper Articles.
- ◆ Brochures, Posters, Envelope Inserts, Fact Sheets.
- ◆ Presentations at health fairs and other community events.
- ◆ Parental notification of benefits and services.
- ◆ Additional activities planned and materials developed by local coalitions in each county.

Health Check Information System

Health Check utilizes AINS to collect data and provide families with information regarding their children's participation in Health Check.

AINS can:

- ◆ Notify families of when their child is due for a Health Check screening or immunization.
- ◆ Remind families to schedule appointments with their PCP for Health Check screening and referrals.
- ◆ Serve as a reporting system for HCC.
- ◆ Produce special reports for program evaluation.

Linkage to Other Community Programs

Health Check fosters linkages with other important resources for young children and their families, such as the Smart Start, WIC, and Immunization programs. At the local level, HCCs are instrumental in assisting with the implementation of new initiatives and in working together with representatives from other programs to encourage coordination of program services, to increase awareness of all programs, and to assure that families are referred appropriately.

Implementation

The Health Check Outreach Project began in November 1993 and has been implemented in the following counties:

Alexander	12/01	Currituck	07/01	Lenoir	10/95	Sampson	10/95
Alleghany	07/01	Dare	01/98	Macon	10/95	Scotland	11/93
Ashe	94/95	Davie	08/01	Madison	11/93	Stanley	10/95
Avery	10/95	Duplin	10/95	McDowell	09/01	Stokes	03/98
Bertie	03/98	Durham	11/93	Mitchell	07/01	Surry	10/95
Brunswick	01/98	Edgecombe	11/93	Nash	11/93	Swain	10/95
Buncombe	11/93	Franklin	11/93	New Hanover	01/98	Union	01/02
Burke	11/93	Gaston	06/01	Northhampton	10/94	Vance	11/93
Cabarrus	09/01	Gates	06/95	Onslow	11/93	Wake	11/93
Caldwell	03/97	Graham	10/95	Orange	11/93	Warren	11/93
Camden	04/95	Granville	11/93	Pamlico	03/98	Watauga	07/01
Catawba	06/95	Greene	10/95	Pasquotank	04/95	Wayne	07/97
Chatham	10/95	Guilford	11/93	Pender	10/94	Wilkes	10/94
Cherokee	10/95	Halifax	10/94	Perquimans	04/95	Wilson	10/95
Chowan	04/95	Harnett	10/01	Person	11/93	Yancey	07/01
Clay	10/95	Haywood	11/93	Polk	09/01	Qualla Boundary	
Cleveland	11/01	Hertford	04/95	Richmond	07/97		
Columbus	01/97	Hoke	11/93	Robeson	11/93		
Craven	07/00	Jackson	10/95	Rockingham	07/00		
Cumberland	11/93	Jones	10/95	Rutherford	09/01		

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